



**MY SCHOOL DC**

The Public School Lottery

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# Common Lottery Board Quarterly Meeting

April 24, 2025

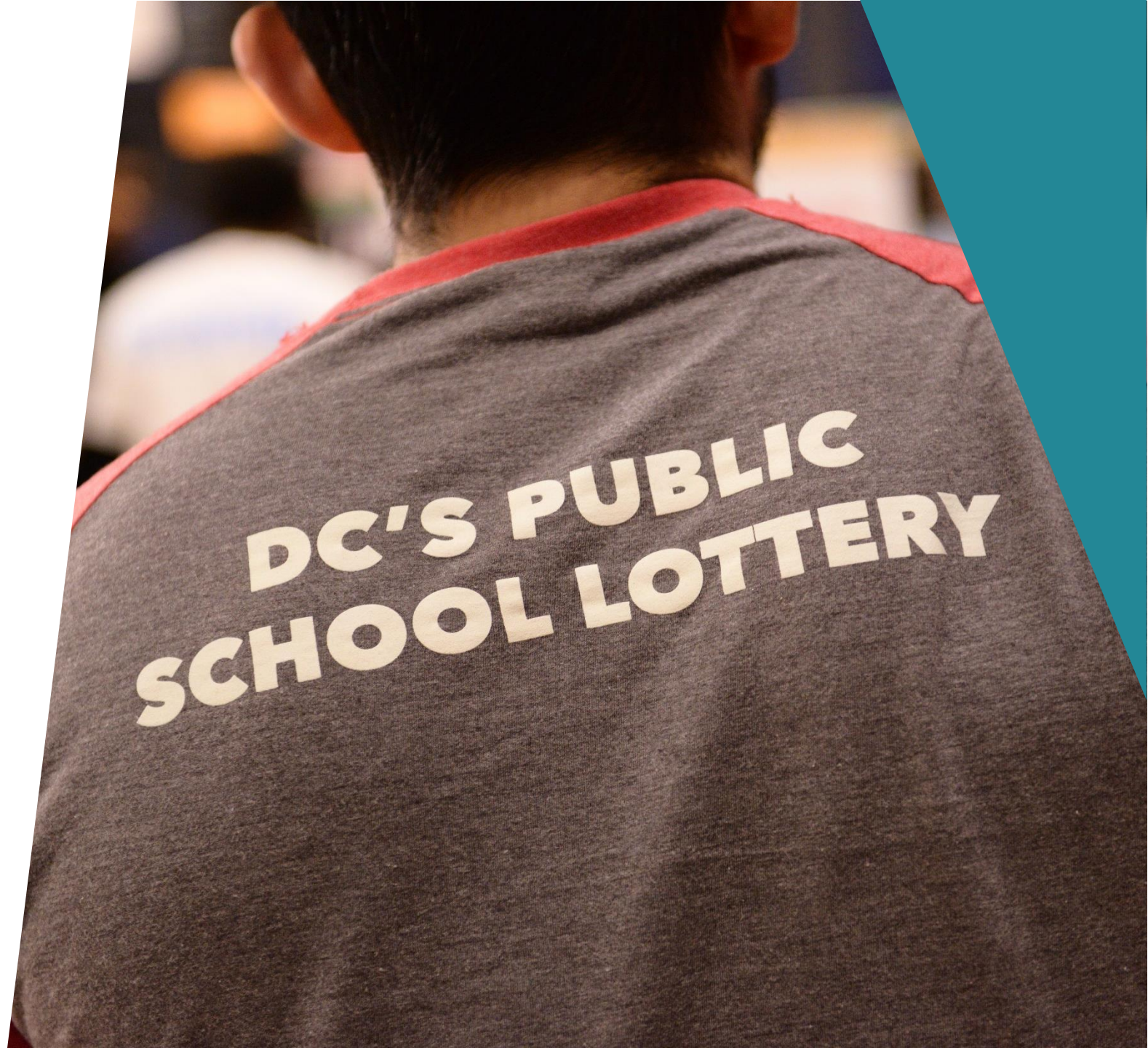
# Common Lottery Board Roll Call

	Member	Organization
Voting Members	Paul Kihn	Deputy Mayor for Education, Chair of CLB
	Daniela Anello	DC Bilingual PCS
	Ijeoma Anyanwu	DC Public Schools
	Emerald Becker	DC Public Schools
	Hilary Darilek	E.L. Haynes PCS
	Chyanne Eyde	DC Public Schools
	Shannon Hodge	KIPP DC PCS
Non-Voting Members	Michelle Walker-Davis	DC Public Charter School Board
	Antoinette Mitchell	Office of the State Superintendent for Education
	Megan Dho	My School DC



# Agenda

- 01 | SY25-26 Lottery Results
- 02 | Equitable Access Results
- 03 | SY25-26 LEA Updates & MSDC Response
- 04 | Policy Issue Discussion
- 05 | SY24-25 Audit Results
- 06 | Board Updates & Next Meeting







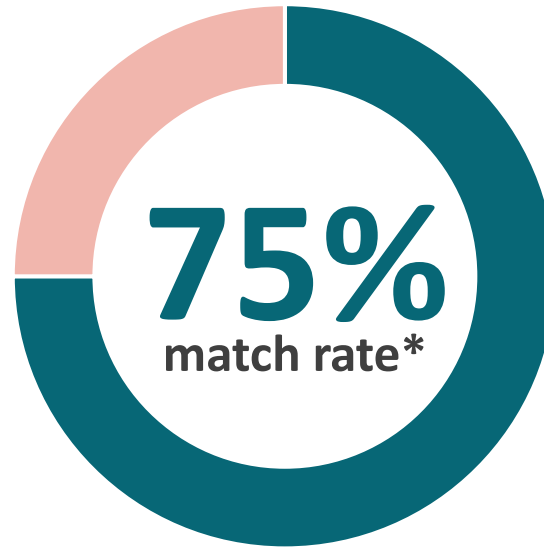
# SY25-26 Lottery Results

# Lottery Results at a Glance

In the 2025-26 lottery  
a total of

**22,443**

students submitted one or  
more applications.



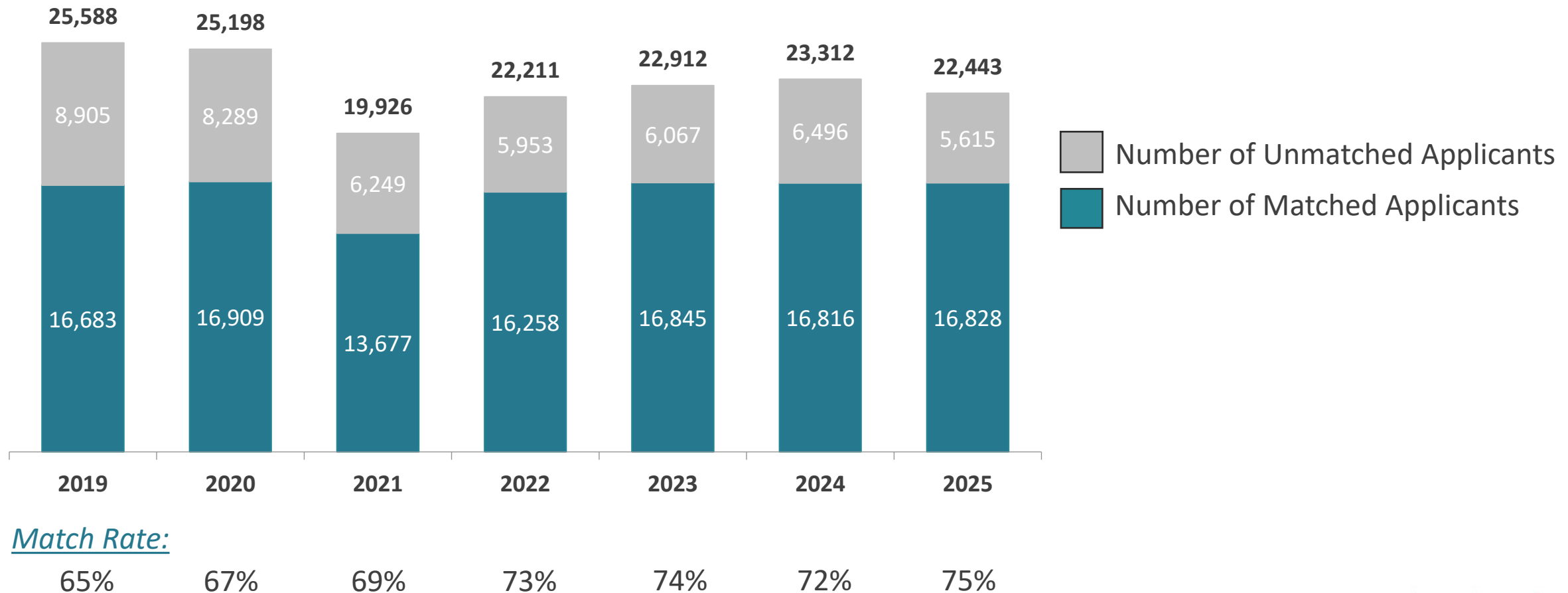
Of the 16,828 applicants who  
were matched to a school,

**63%**

matched to their  
#1 choice school.

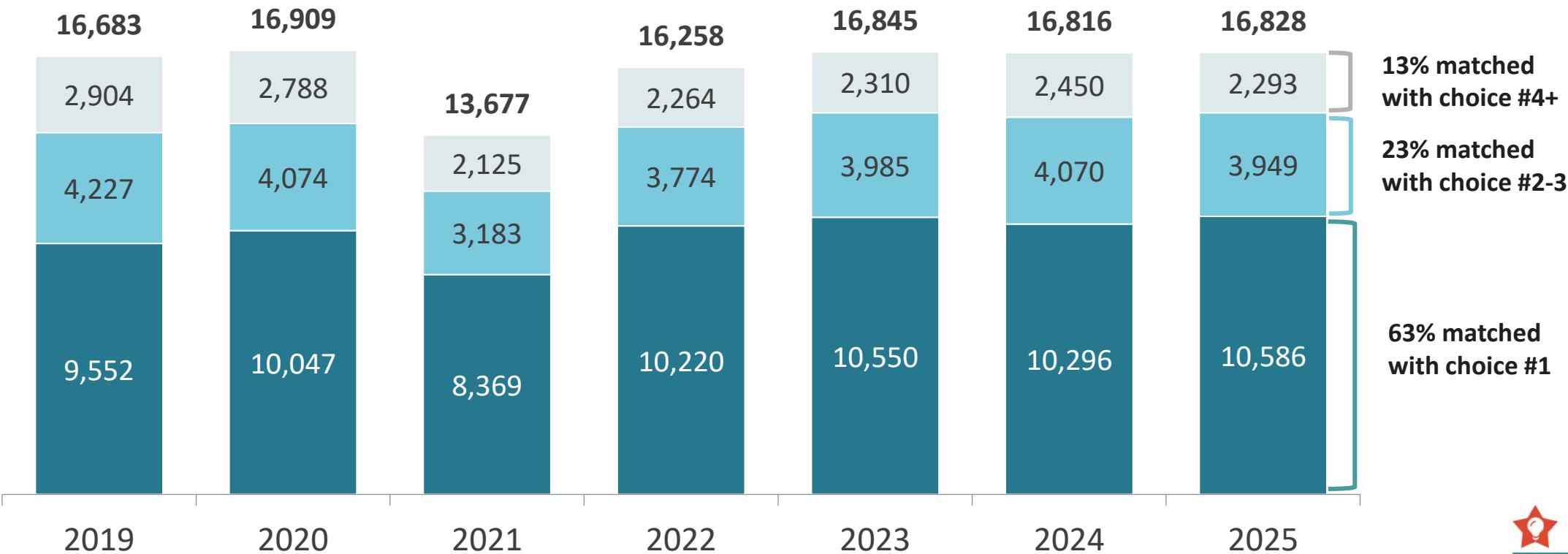
*\*The match rate is the percentage of all applicants who applied and received a match.*

# Total Number of Matches – Year to Year



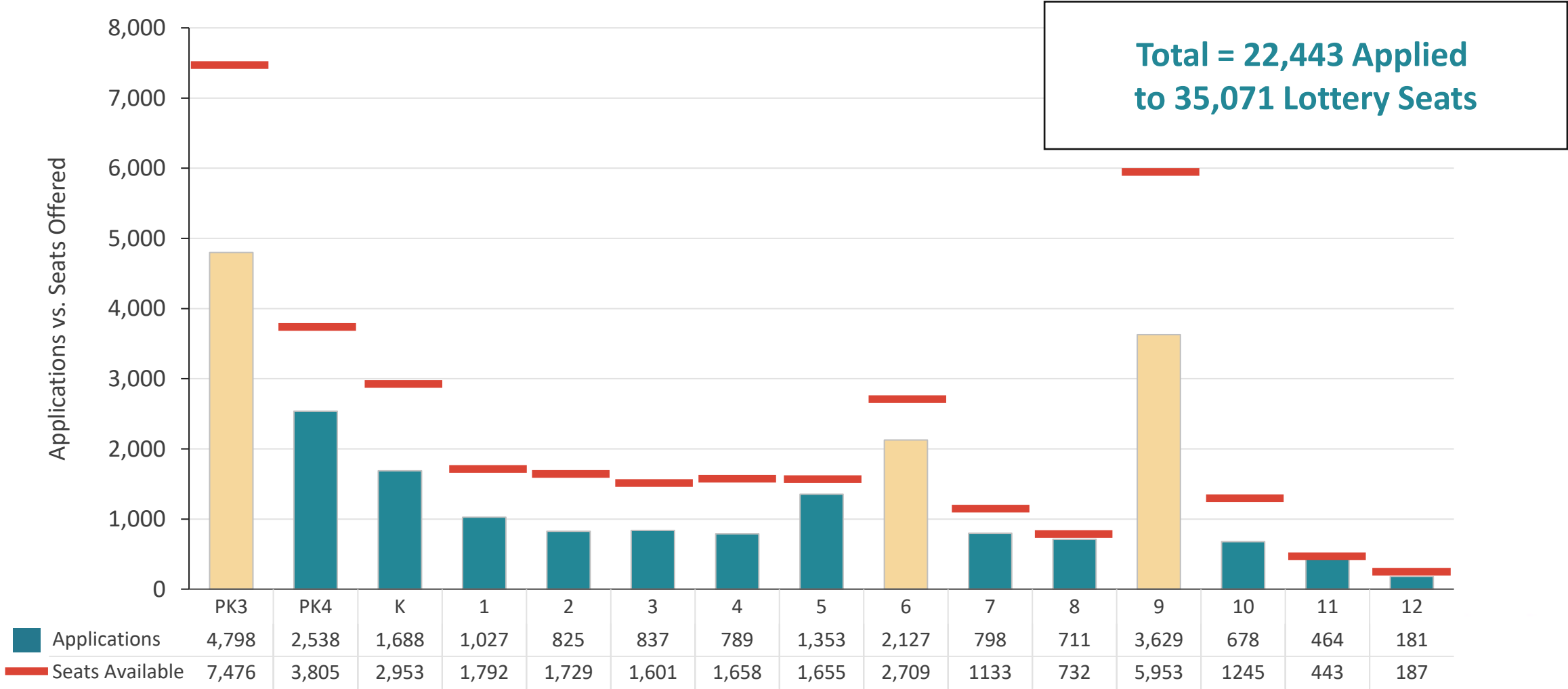
# Distribution of Matches by Ranked Preference

*A record number of applicants matched to their #1 school choice, beating 2023's last record by 36 matches.*



# Number of Applications vs. Lottery Seats

*In SY25-26, LEAs offered a total of 35,071 seats. There were more lottery seats than applications submitted in every grade, but PK3 saw the greatest differential with 7,000 seats offered for 4,800 applicants.*

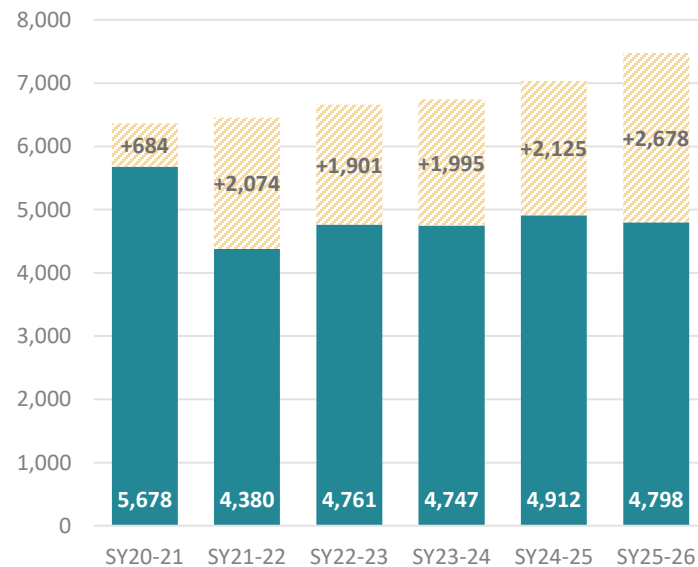




# Applications vs. Lottery Seats Offered

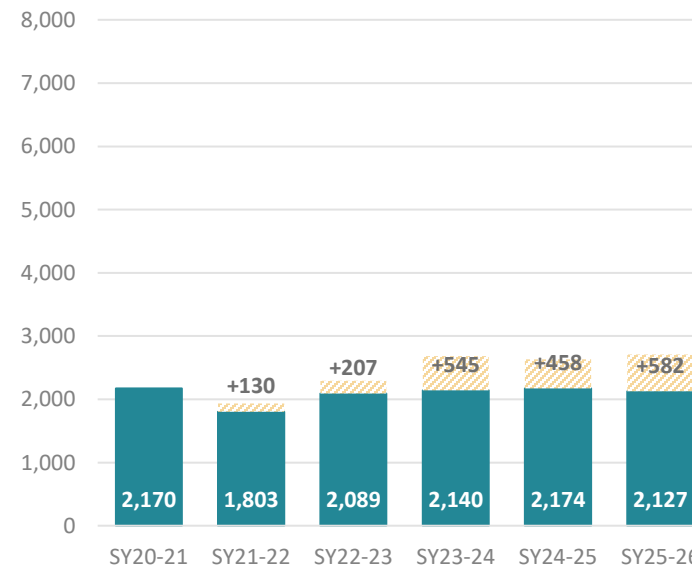
*More seats were offered than applicants across all entry grades, with the greatest increase seen at in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.*

## PK3:

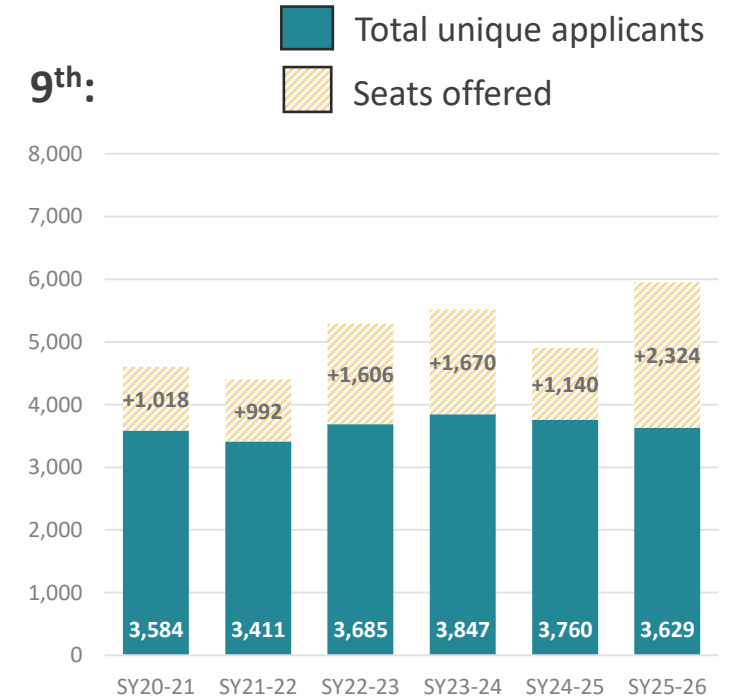


At PK3, D.C. offered over 7,000 seats for 4,800 three-year-olds. This increase is entirely from existing LEA's offering additional seats in the lottery.

## 6<sup>th</sup>:



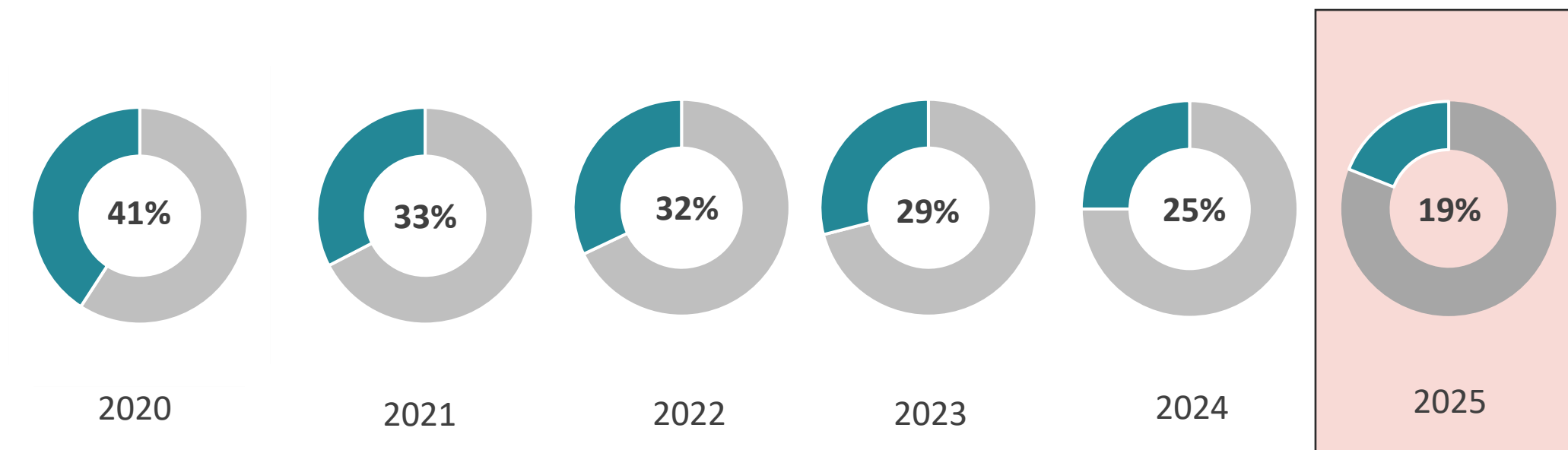
## 9<sup>th</sup>:



*In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the number of applicants has remained quite steady, but the number of seats offered has increased most years.*

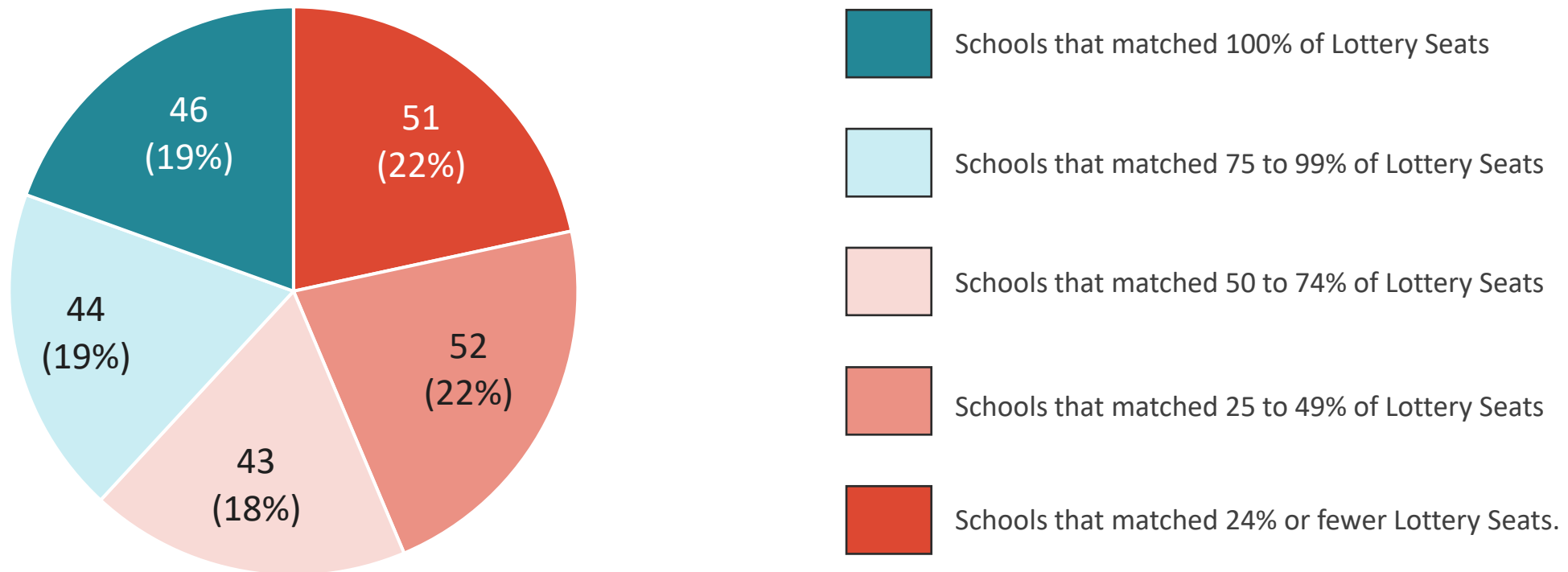
# Percent Matching 100% of Their Lottery Seats

*With a third straight year of additional seats offered in the lottery, less than 1 in 5 schools matched 100% of their seats in SY25-26.*



# Majority of Schools Match Less Than 75% of Seats

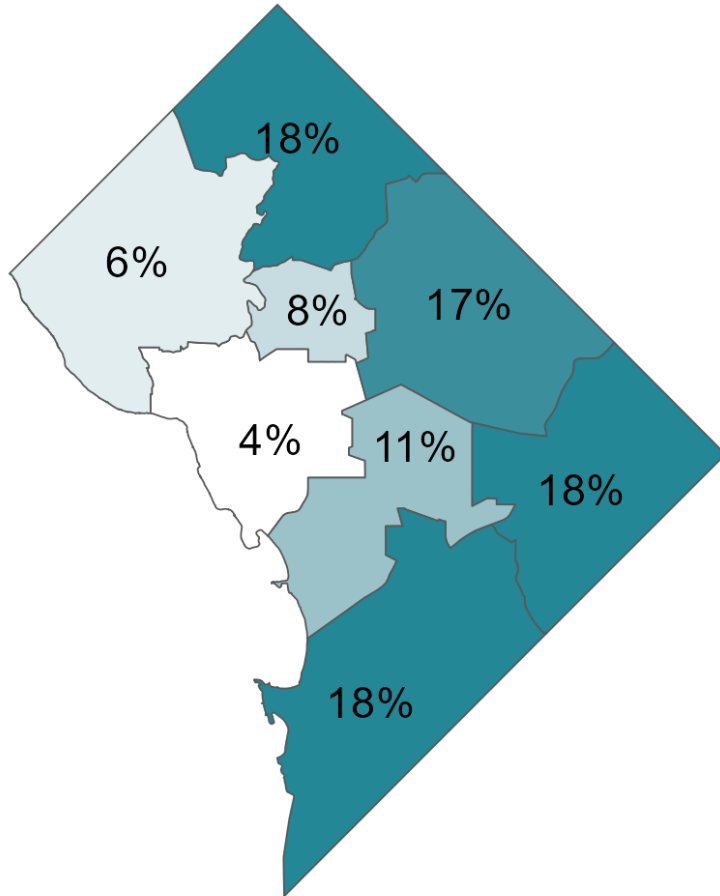
236\* schools offered 35,071 seats in the lottery (+4,613, 15%).



\*Does not include four schools that did not offer seats in the lottery.



# SY25-26 Ward Parity



Ward	Total Public-School Enrollment by Ward of Residence (SY24-25)	Applicants by Ward of Residence (SY25-26)
1	8%	8%
2	3%	4%
3	7%	6%
4	17%	18%
5	16%	17%
6	8%	11%
7	20%	18%
8	22%	18%



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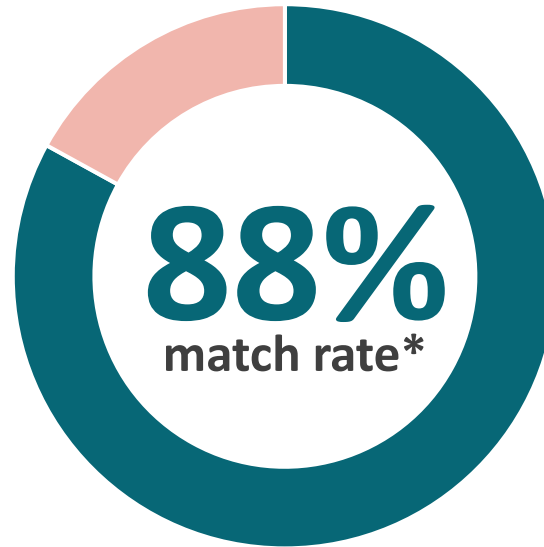
# SY25-26 Equitable Access Results

# Equitable Access at a Glance

In the 2025-26 lottery  
a total of

**3,580**

students were found eligible  
and applied to one or more  
schools participating in  
Equitable Access (EA).



Of the 3,580 EA  
eligible applicants

**685**

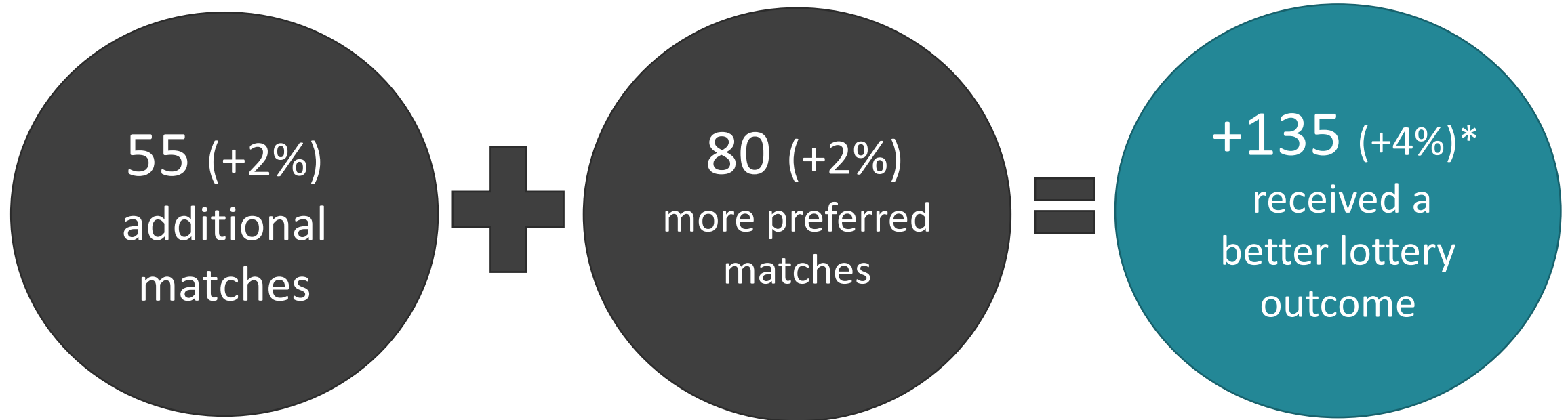
matched via an Equitable  
Access preference or  
designated seat.

*\*The match rate is the percentage of applicants who were matched to a school on their application.*



# How did Equitable Access Influence Matches?

We ran the lottery without the Equitable Access preference, and found that the preference added:



Put another way, 135 (4%) of the 3,580 qualifying equitable access students received either an initial match, or more preferred match, than they would have received without the preference.

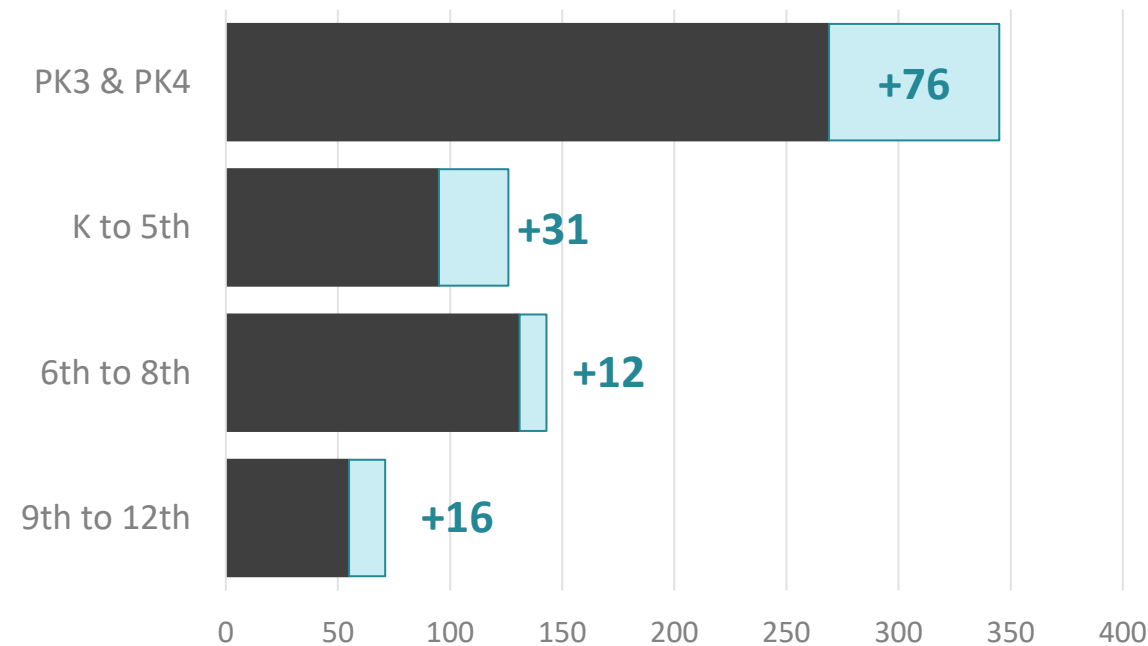
# How did Equitable Access Influence Matches?

*How To Read This Chart:*

Matches without  
the preference.



Matches & improved matches  
with the preference.



Like the past two lottery cycles, Early Childhood continues to see the largest increase in match's due to additional Equitable Access seats being available.



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# SY25-26 LEA Updates and MSDC Responses



# I Dream PCS - School Closure

## Background:

- ❖ I Dream PCS was up for its 5-year charter review by PCSB this year.
- ❖ In March, PCSB completed its review and issued a recommendation that I Dream PCS's charter be renewed with conditions.
- ❖ On March 20, I Dream PCS's Executive Director contacted MSDC to request that its seats be removed from the SY25-26 lottery, which MSDC honored before it ran the lottery.
  - This put all applicants to I Dream PCS not matched to other schools on their waitlist.
- ❖ On March 26, I Dream PCS notified PCSB it was voluntarily relinquishing its charter, effective June 18, 2025.
- ❖ On April 7, I Dream PCS's charter relinquishment was made public and read into the record at PCSB's Board Meeting.

## Current status and MSDC response:

- ❖ MSDC sent an email to all families on I Dream PCS's waitlist to notify them that the school is closing.
- ❖ PCSB has assigned specialists to work with I Dream PCS families on identifying alternative SY25-26 school choices for its currently enrolled 94 students as a part of its closure plan.
- ❖ PCSB is holding an enrollment fair for I Dream PCS families on April 25 from 3-5pm. MSDC staff will be present to advise families on their school options and assist them in applying to new schools.

# Hope Community PCS

## Background:

- ❖ This year, Hope Community PCS (“Hope”) was up for its 20-year charter review by PCSB.
- ❖ In March, PCSB issued its report and recommended Hope’s charter be renewed with conditions.
- ❖ On March 17, PCSB reviewed Hope’s charter review recommendations in a Public Meeting.
- ❖ On March 26, Hope Community PCS’s Board Chair emailed MSDC to notify us that it would be scheduling a vote to close the school at the end of SY24-25.
- ❖ On March 27, MSDC removed Hope’s seats from the lottery based on its uncertain operating status in SY25-26 (per MSDC policy) and re-ran the lottery.
  - Placed all Hope Community PCS applicants not matched to other schools on their waitlist.
- ❖ On April 4, Hope Community PCS’ Board met and decided to table its vote on the school’s closure.

## Current status:

- ❖ Hope Community PCS is still planning to be open for SY25-26 and will maintain its charter so long as it meets the conditions outlined in its charter review agreement.
- ❖ Hope Community PCS can still enroll new students by making offers off its waitlist.



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# Policy Discussion



# Policy Consideration: Re-enrollment of Former Students

## Presenting Issue/Background:

- Several USAID families living abroad, learned they may be returning to DC after the lottery deadline passed this year.
- Contacted MSDC and various LEAs seeking to re-enroll their children in their prior schools for educational continuity and to ease their re-entry.
- Learned some LEAs have return to school/leave of absence policies that permit these families to re-enroll without entering the lottery and others do not.
  - Some LEAs called MSDC to confirm they were authorized by MSDC to implement their policies.
- Discovered these LEA policies are not explicitly authorized nor prohibited via our current MSDC policies.

## Current Policy: Re-enrollment of Returning Students

- Only gives LEAs discretion to determine re-enrollment policies for current students, not former students.
  - *The deadlines and processes for re-enrollment are managed solely by LEAs. Schools may have different timelines and processes for current students to re-enroll.*
- Current MSDC policy does not allow LEAs to give preference to former students in the lottery, yet existing LEA policies give those students preference by allowing them to re-enroll without entering the lottery, if they meet certain conditions.
  - *No LEA may implement or indicate the existence of a preference for former students. These students will go on the school's waitlist if forced to re-apply and could be at the bottom.*

# Policy Consideration: Re-enrollment of Former Students

## Questions for Board Consideration/Discussion:

- 1) Should the Board address this issue in our MSDC Policy Guide section on Re-enrollment or is that unnecessary and outside of our purview?
- 2) If so, should we add language to codify current practice which states that LEAs have the discretion to determine re-enrollment policies of former students and can permit them to re-enroll without entering the lottery?



# SY24-25 Audit Results

# Audit Objectives

- Identify participating schools that enrolled students outside of the My School DC process
- Analyze requested lottery grades and enrolled lottery grades of applicants
- Analyze enrollment error trends in the SY24-25 lottery and the Centralized Waitlist Management System (“CWMS”) usage

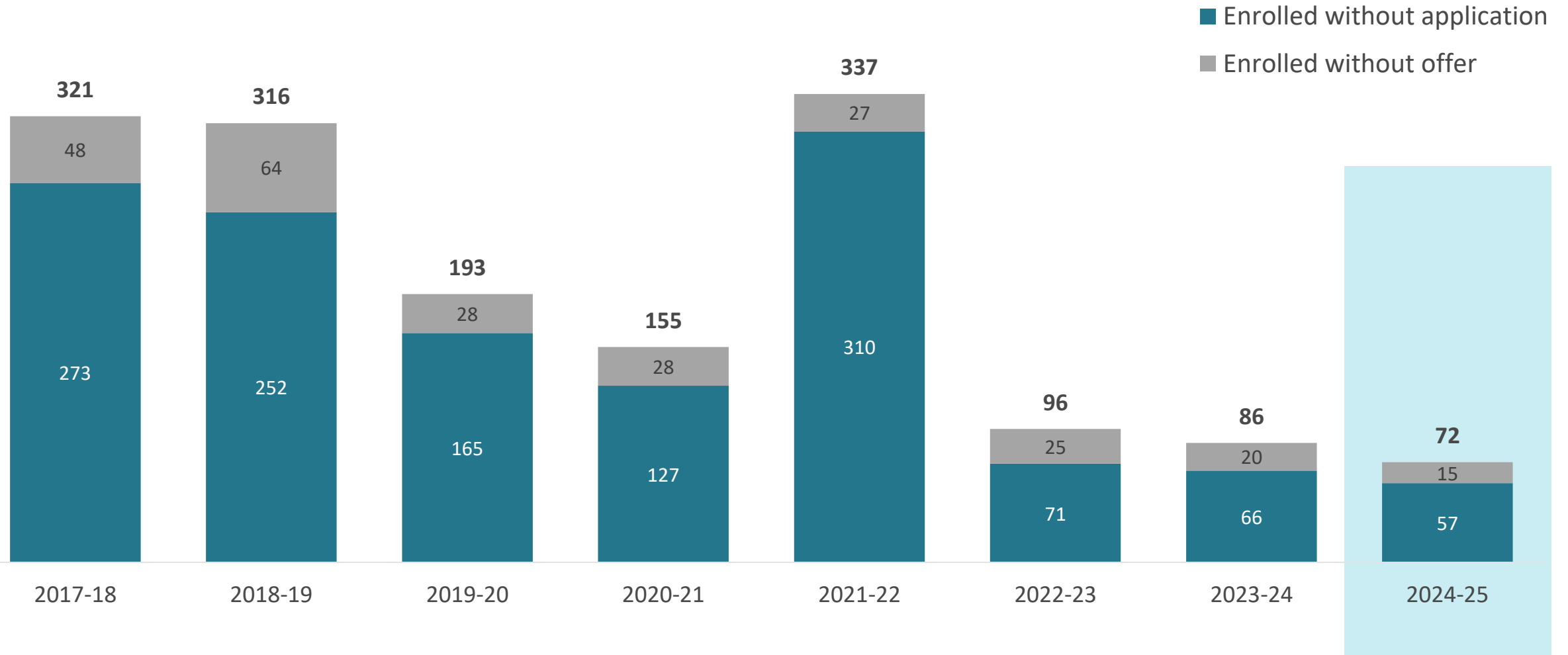
## Key SY24-25 Findings

- **14% decrease (32 in SY24-25 versus 37 in SY23-24) in errors that could have caused displacement; 27% decrease in errors causing a likely displacement; 16% decrease in total errors.**
- **15% decrease in grade level discrepancies compared to SY23-24.**
- **85% of lottery applicants received a match or waitlist offer by October 2024.**



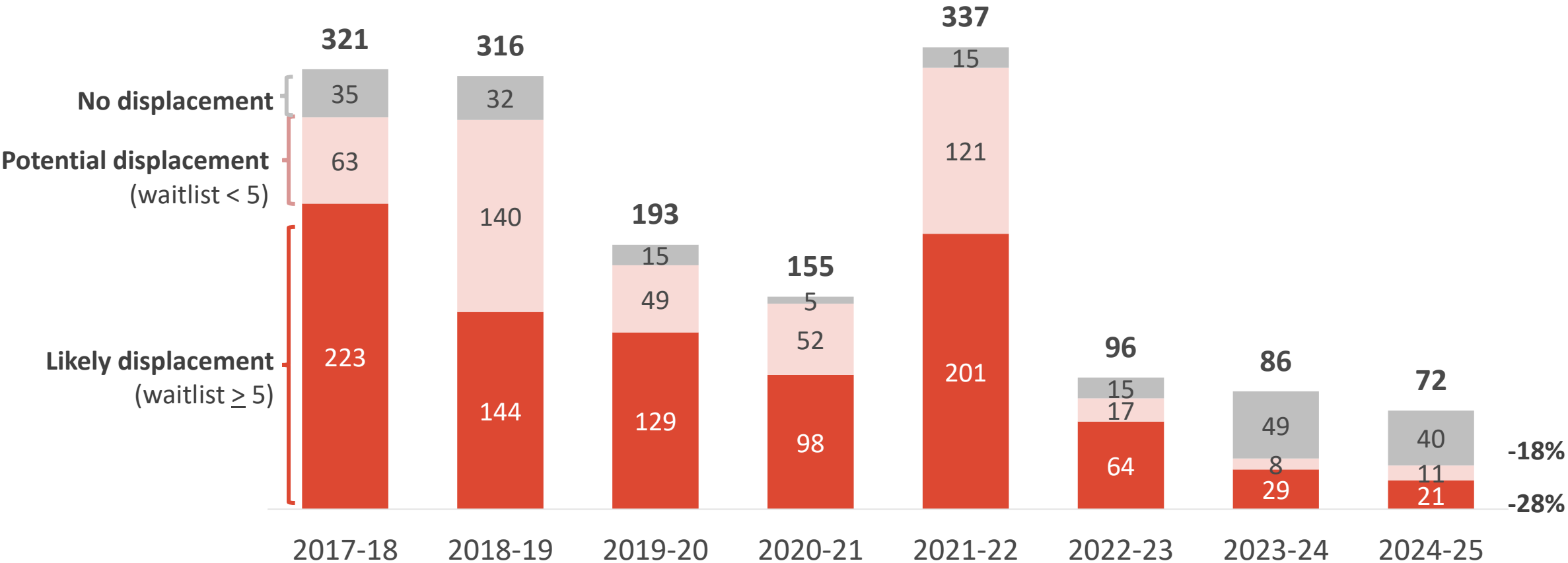
# Enrollment Errors Over Time

*16% decrease in citywide errors from SY23-24*



# Student Displacement Due to Enrollment Errors

*Fewer students were likely displaced in SY24-25 than we've seen since the start of our auditing process.*





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# Board Updates and Next Meeting

# SY24-25 Equitable Access Preference Implementation Update

Participating LEAs	Implementation Method
BASIS PCS	Designated Seats
Breakthrough Montessori PCS	Lottery Preference
The Children's Guild PCS	Lottery Preference
DC Bilingual PCS	Designated Seats
DC Public Schools	Designated Seats & Lottery Preference
DC Wildflower PCS	Designated Seats
Digital Pioneers Academy PCS	Lottery Preference
E.L. Haynes PCS	Designated Seats
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS	Designated Seats
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS	Designated Seats
Lee Montessori PCS	Designated Seats
Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS	Designated Seats
Sojourner Truth PCS	Lottery Preference
Two Rivers PCS	Designated Seats
Washington Latin PCS	Designated Seats
Washington Yu Ying PCS	Designated Seats



# Board Member Changes & Elections

- ❖ This is the last Board meeting for PCS voting member, *Hilary Darilek*, who has served on the CLB for the last 7 years!
  
- ❖ PCSB is currently accepting nominations for a new PCS member representative whose term will start July 1:
  - May 8 - Nominations due to Hannah Cousino, Director of Sector Planning and Compliance, at [hcousino@dcpcsb.org](mailto:hcousino@dcpcsb.org).
  - May 14 - Nominees will be announced in PCSB's Wednesday Bulletin and via email with a link to vote.
  - June 8 – Votes due.

*Thank you, Hilary, for  
your many years of  
service to the CLB!*

# Next Meeting

Thursday, July 31st  
@ 2 p.m.

## Anticipated Agenda Items:

- Welcoming our New Board Member
- FY25 Annual Goals Review
- FY26 Proposed Goals
- MSDC Policy Guide Review & Updates